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COL. SAMUEL N. WOOD

Col. Samuel N. Wood was born in Mount Gilead, Ohio, December 30, 1825. His grandfather was a Native of Rhode Island. He was the son of David and Esther (Mosher) Wood, who had with their parents emigrated to Ohio from their Eastern homes as early as 1817. The Woods and the Moshers were of the peace-loving society of Friends, no less lovers of peace than humanity, and, as history records, the uncompromising foes of oppression and of African slavery, always and ever. The subject of this sketch thus inherited the anti-slavery sentiments which became the ruling force in his character and life. His paternal grandfather was a leader in the meetings of the Orthodox Quakers till the time of his death. His maternal grandfather after 1828, when the division occurred, became a leader in the more progressive wing of the brotherhood, followers of Elias Hicks, and known ever since as Hicksites. Both these families of Friends were equally intense in their hatred of slavery. They were from time immemorial Abolitionists of the deepest dye, and ran successfully through Pennsylvania, Ohio, and all the border States, the under ground railroads to liberty for the escaping slaves. In such a school Young Wood nurtured. He was bred to habits of sobriety and industry on a Quaker farm, and received his early education in the schools in the vicinity. He early became interested in the politics of the country, and, at the age of nineteen, in 1844, was selected as the Chairman of the "Liberty Party" Central Committee of his county. James G. Birney was the Abolitionist candidate for the Presidency at that time. In 1848 he boldly for conscience and right against the popular current. Heedless of the applause or reproof of men, he has fought under the commands of his conscience and his judgment ever since that time. In 1848 he supported Van Buren as the Presidential candidate, as opposed to Cass who stood on a slavery platform. In 1852 he supported the straight

In 1852 he supported the straight Abolition ticket of Hale and Julian, and canvassed his section in their favor during the campaign. He was, during the campaign, challenged to a publick discussion of the questions at issue by Judson A. Beebe, a lawyer of some repute in the neighborhood. He accepted the challenge, but the discussion never came off, Beebe declining to discuss such weighty questions with a non-professional farmer. Mr. Wood soon after entered the office of Messrs. Stinchcomb & Brumbaugh as a law student, and was admitted to practice at the bar of Morrow County, Ohio, June 5, 1854. He was one of the most earnest and uncompromising opposers of the Kansas-Nebraska iniquity, and on the passage of the bill, immediately sold out his effects, and in accordance with a promise publicly made while the bill was pending "went to Kansas to fight the battle over again." He left Morrow County, Ohio, June 6, 1854, and travelled with his own team accompanied by his family, to Cincinnati; thence embarking on a steamboat, he

made the somewhat tedious voyage by way of the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri rivers, reaching Independence, Mo., June 16, ~~Ten~~ Two days after Mr. Wood, with his wife, entered Kansas on a tour of observation and in search of a home. They proceeded leisurely, stopping at short stages, a day or two in a place. They travelled as far inland as the present town of Clinton, Douglas County, thence South to the Santa Fe Road and back on that road to Independence. Shortly after his return, leaving his family in Independence, he, in company with Mr. Rolf, again went across the territory on horseback, and selected a claim, four miles west of the site of Lawrence, in the present township of Wakarusa, where he resided during the exciting and troublous years of 1855, 56, and 57. He became early distinguished as a bold and outspoken anti-slavery man, who was not afraid to show his colors and defend them at all times. His life during the early days of the territory is interwoven in ineffaceable lines with its history. The leader of the state history will not fail to trace the prominent part he took in the early struggles. He was both a talking and a fighting man, and, as such, incurred the intense hatred of the border-puffian element. He early became identified with the free-state party, being a candidate for election to the first territorial legislature. He first started a branch of the U. G. R. R. at Lawrence, assisting the first fugitive slave who appeared at Lawrence to escape. This occurred as early as February, 1855. November 21, 1855, Charles M. Dow was murdered by Franklin N. Coleman. The circumstances of the murder, the arrest of Branson for participating in a somewhat turbulent indignation meeting at which Mr. Wood was the principal speaker, His subsequent rescue by Wood, and Abbott and others, and the "Wakarusa war" which followed, constitute an exciting chapter in the history of the territory. Mr. Wood was twice arrested by

Sheriff Jones for participation in the Branson rescue, and was himself rescued at the time of his second arrest by his friends. His political career was, from the beginning, such as to place him in the front rank of anti-slavery and free-state advocates. He was a Kansas delegate to the National Convention at Pittsburgh, Penn. in 1856, at which the Republican Party was first formed as a national organization. And was also a delegate, the same year, to the Philadelphia Convention which nominated John C. Fremont for the Presidency. He participated in the following campaign, speaking in Ohio and other northern states. He was a warm advocate of the first movement for a State government, known as the (Topeka) government, and subsequently advocated the course which prevailed, of open and bold contest with the pro-slavery courses, at the ballot-box. In 1859 he removed to Cottonwood Falls, Chase County, where, May 30, he started "The Kansas Press." The first newspaper published in the county. In October of the same year he removed it to Council Grove, Morris County, whereas the Council Grove Press it became the pioneer newspaper of that county also. He was the same year elected a member of the territorial legislature from the district comprised of Morris, Chase, and Madison county, and was reelected in 1860, holding during the term the responsible position of Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Under the State Constitution he was elected a member of the first State senate, where he was again honored with the Chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee. Soon after the inauguration of Lincoln, he received from the President an appointment as Collector of Customs at Paso Del Norte, Texas. The war breaking out, he declined the appointment, resigned his position as Senator, and enlisted. As Captain of the "Kansas Rangers" Company 1, Second Regiment, Kansas Infantry, he fought with great bravery at the severe and hardly contested engagement at

Wilson Creek. He was subsequently assigned to a battalion of Missouri troops, "Freemont's Battalion," which he had recruited, serving with distinction first as Major, and subsequently being promoted as Lieutenant Colonel. With his new command he fought at the battle near Salem, and formed a part of the command of Gen. Curtis in his campaign through Arkansas. He resigned in 1863 and returned to Morris County from which he was elected as a member of the State Legislature, serving in this session of 1864. He was reelected in 1865, but an accident resulting in a fractured leg, prevented his serving during the session for which he had been elected. In 1866 he was elected as State Senator from Morris, Chase, and Marion Counties. During the session he introduced the first resolution ever offered in this Kansas Legislature favoring Woman Suffrage. His mother a contemporary of Lucretia Mott, and, like her a member of the society Friends, had forty years before presided over the first woman's suffrage meeting ever held in Morrow County, Ohio. In 1867 Mr. Wood started the Chase County Banner which in addition to its record of local affairs was a special advocate of the rights of women, including that of suffrage. It was printed on the first hand-press brought into the Territory in 1833 by Rev. Jotham Meeker, an Indian missionary, mentioned of whom appears in the Indian history. The paper was edited by Mr. Wood until the spring of 1869, at which time he sold it out to an association of business men of Cottonwood Falls. In 1867 he was appointed judge of the Ninth Judicial Districts. He himself lived ^{in Texas} in 1869-70, where he became engaged in cattle raising, his family still residing in Kansas. ~~In~~ 1867 In 1872 with many other conscientious and leading Republicans, he for the first time broke from strict affiliation with the party he had helped to found, and whose fortunes he had followed unfalteringly through evil and good repute, and ardently supported Horace Greeley on the Liberal

Republican Platform adopted at the time of his nomination. Since that time, although still sympathizing ~~with~~ with his old party on most questions at issue, he has independently advocated financial and labor reforms, taking such advanced and radical grounds as are impossible within the pale of either of the old parties. He edited the Kansas Greenbacker at Emporia, from 1878 to '79, and since May 1881, has been editor-in-chief of the Kansas State Journal, published at Topeka, where he has resided since his connection with it. Mr. Wood married Miss Margaret W. Lyon, daughter of William and Elizabeth Lyon, October 3, 1850. Their children were: David, born August 25, 1851; William Lyon, born March 10, 1853; Florence, born January 20, 1857; Dearie, born July 7, 1865; Dearie died July 12, 1879. David Wood is in business at Montrose, Colorado. He is engaged in forwarding goods into the mountain towns. He is unmarried and in good worldly circumstances. William L. Wood is a well-to-do farmer in Chase County, Kansas. He has four hundred and sixty acres of land. His children consist of two boys and a girl. Florence is married to J. B. Abbott, a mining engineer. They live at Salt Lake, Colorado. They have two children, one of each sex.

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